

Serial No. 10/827,230
Docket No. YOR920040080US1 (YOR.517)

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-10, 12-16, and 26 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Claims 2, 6, 11, and 17-25 have been canceled to permit the remaining claims to pass to immediate allowance, as based upon incorporation of subject matter of claims 6 and 17, indicated as allowable in the Office Action mailed on February 16, 2006 and on August 14, 2006.

It is noted Applicant specifically states that no amendment to any claim herein should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the amended claim.

Claims 1 and 18 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing the written description requirement. Applicant does not agree with the Examiner's position, but deletion of this wording renders this rejection moot.

Claims 1, 4, 9, 10, 13, 18, and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. US 2003/0107363 to Tsironis. Claims 3, 7, 8, 14, and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsironis, further in view of US Patent 6,828,768 to McTigue. Claim 22 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsironis, further in view of US Patent 5,959,512 to Sherman. Claims 2, 5, 11, 12, 16, 20, and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsironis/McTigue, further in view of US Patent 3,392,354 to Plutchok.

Incorporation of the allowable subject matter into the remaining independent claims renders these rejections moot.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1, 3-5, 7-10, 12-16, and 26, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

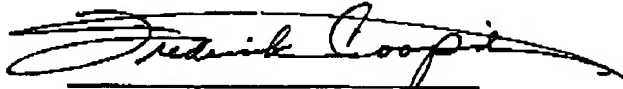
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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Assignee's Deposit Account No. 50-0510.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: _____

8/18/06

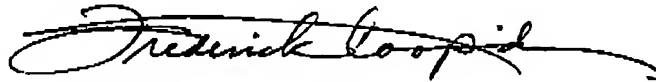


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CERTIFICATION OF TRANSMISSION

I certify that I transmitted via facsimile to the USPTO at (571) 273-8300 this Amendment under 37 CFR §1.116 on August 18, 2006.



Frederick E. Cooperrider
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